JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Columbia Field Office
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street, Room 865 B-1
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

THE S. C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia. South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N #2005-2T-208-W 08 JULY 2005

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), and the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program (R. 19-450, et. seq., 1976 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the State of South Carolina by

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
C/O BARRETT STONE
FLORENCE AND HUTCHESON, INC.
2700 MIDDLEBURG DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29204

for a permit to place fill material in waters of the United States, including freshwater wetlands, adjacent to the

CONGAREE RIVER

at a location on U.S. Highway 601 between Joe Collins Road (S-56) and the Calhoun County/Richland County line at the Congaree River in Calhoun and Richland Counties, South Carolina (Latitude 33.77202°N, Longitude 80.63972°W).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, 08 AUGUST 2005

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of placing approximately 96,489 cubic yards of fill material in 8.13 acres of wetlands to allow for the replacement of four bridges along U.S. Highway 601. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes to replace the U.S. 601 bridge over the Congaree River and three floodplain overflow bridges, widen the existing roadway travel lanes, and pave a portion of the grass shoulders.

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In detail, Bridge No. 1 will be replaced on the existing alignment. The existing 150-foot bridge will be replaced with a new 165-foot bridge. To continue traffic flow during bridge construction, a temporary standard concrete flat slab detour bridge will be constructed. The temporary bridge and roadway will require 0.3 acre of wetlands to be filled, however, 0.25 acres of the fill is temporary, and will be removed upon completion of the existing bridge replacement. At Bridge No. 2, the roadway alignment will shift approximately 45 feet to the west to allow construction of a new bridge while maintaining traffic on the existing bridge. This will require filling 1.39 acres of wetlands. The existing 1,590-foot bridge will be replaced with a bridge of nearly equal length. A portion of the existing embankment in the vicinity of the alignment shift will be removed, allowing restoration of 1.1 acre of wetlands. The roadway alignment will be shifted 45 feet to the west starting about 1700 feet north of Bridge No. 3 and in the 4000-foot section between Bridge No. 3 and Bridge No. 4. This will require filling 6.44 acres of wetlands. The existing 630-foot Bridge No. 3 will be replaced with a bridge of nearly equal length. The existing 1,743 foot Bridge No. 4 will also be replaced with a bridge of nearly equal length. A portion of the existing embankment in the vicinity of the alignment shift will be removed, allowing restoration of 4.9 acres of wetlands. As stated by the SCDOT, these bridges have been classified as deficient and do not meet current design standards. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide safe and efficient transportation along U.S. Route 601 by replacing the existing deficient bridges.

The SCDOT has proposed mitigation that includes utilizing 2:1 embankment slopes, the implementation of best management practices during construction, and restoring wetlands on-site by the removal of the existing embankment, where possible, to the existing wetland elevation. A total of 5.99 acres of embankment will be removed and restored to natural conditions. The Department is studying possible on-site remediation/restoration opportunities through the installation of floodplain pipes and/or culverts along the embankment. In addition, the Department proposes to acquire and preserve lands within the Congaree River floodplain. The Department is coordinating with the Congaree National Park Service for potential properties that may be suitable for inclusion into the Park. Furthermore, properties along the project corridor are being evaluated for their suitability as preservation tracts. A final mitigation proposal will be submitted for review by July 29, 2005.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

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The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certification is received. This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review. Persons wishing to comment or object to State certification or the navigable waters permit must submit all comments in writing to the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice.

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This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 8.13 acres of freshwater substrates inland of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the applicant has provided a protected species survey for the property associated with the activity described above. Based upon this report, the District Engineer has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

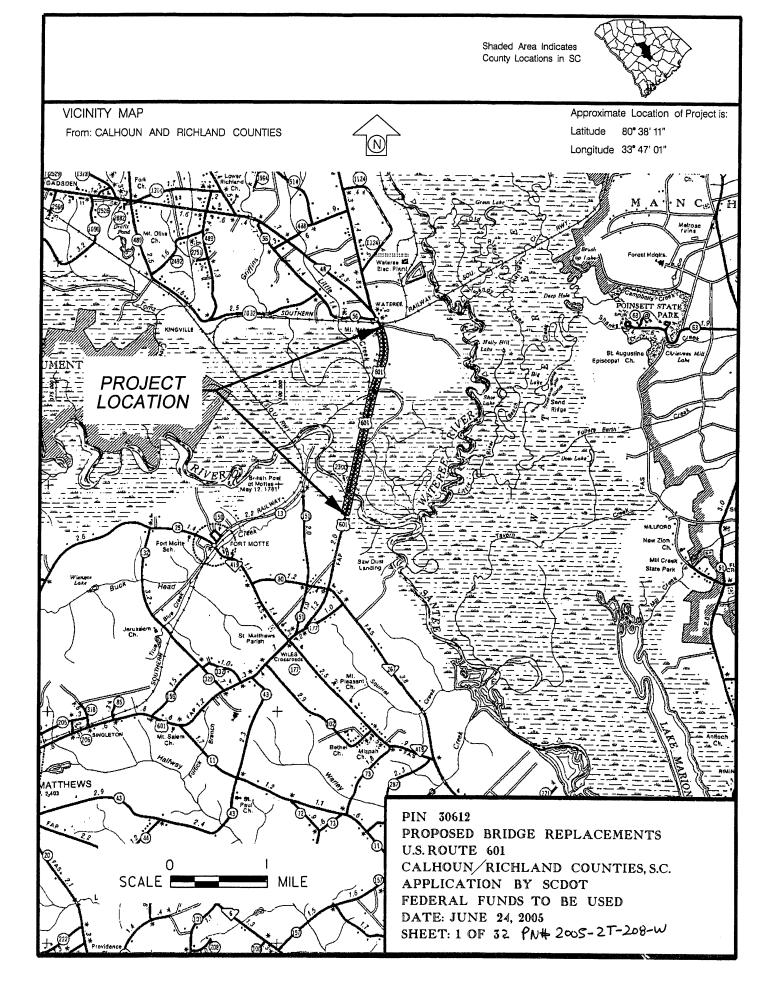
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

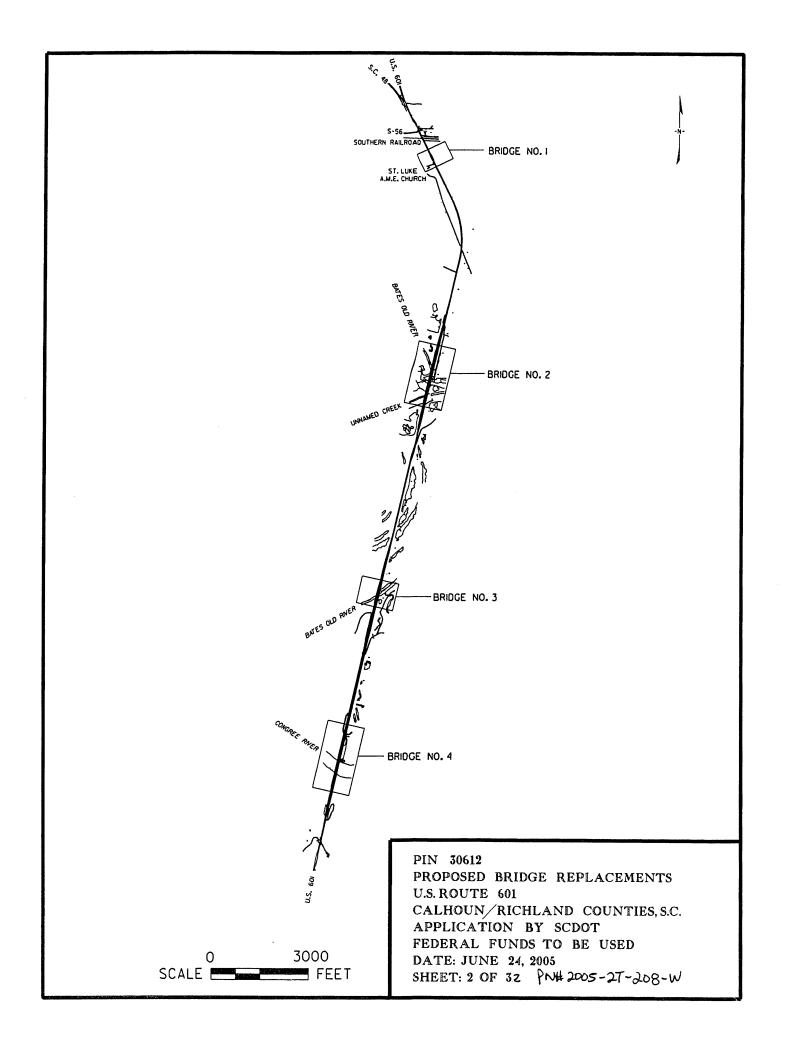
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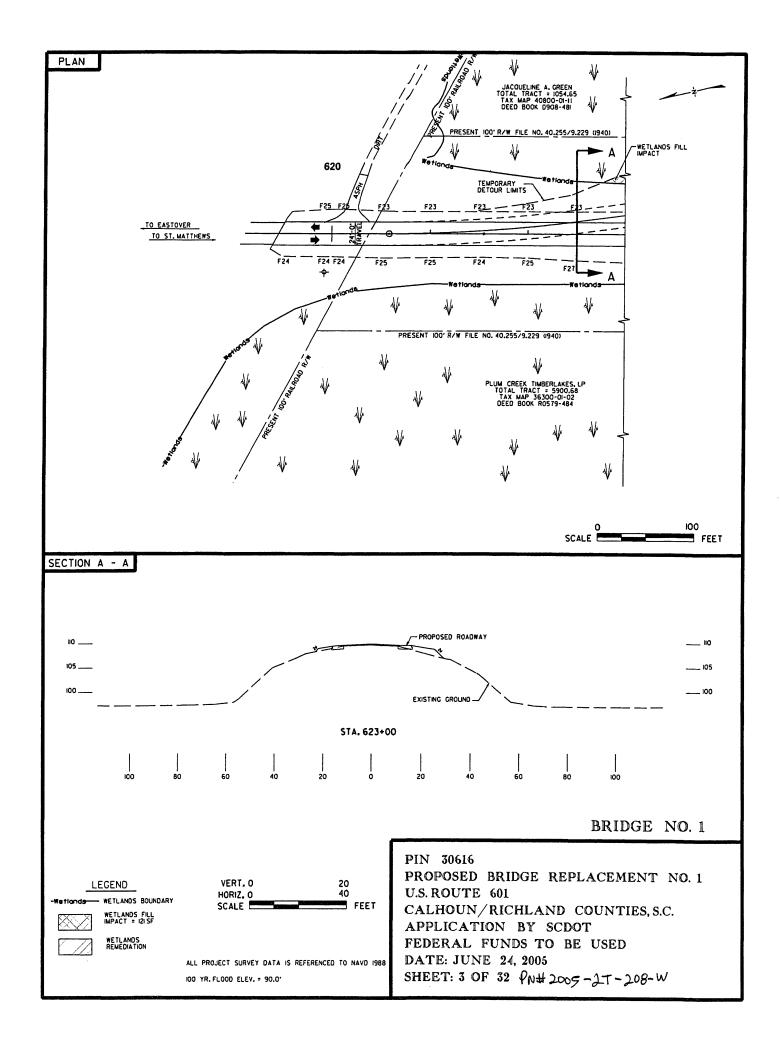
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact me at 843-329-8400 or toll free at 866-329-8187.

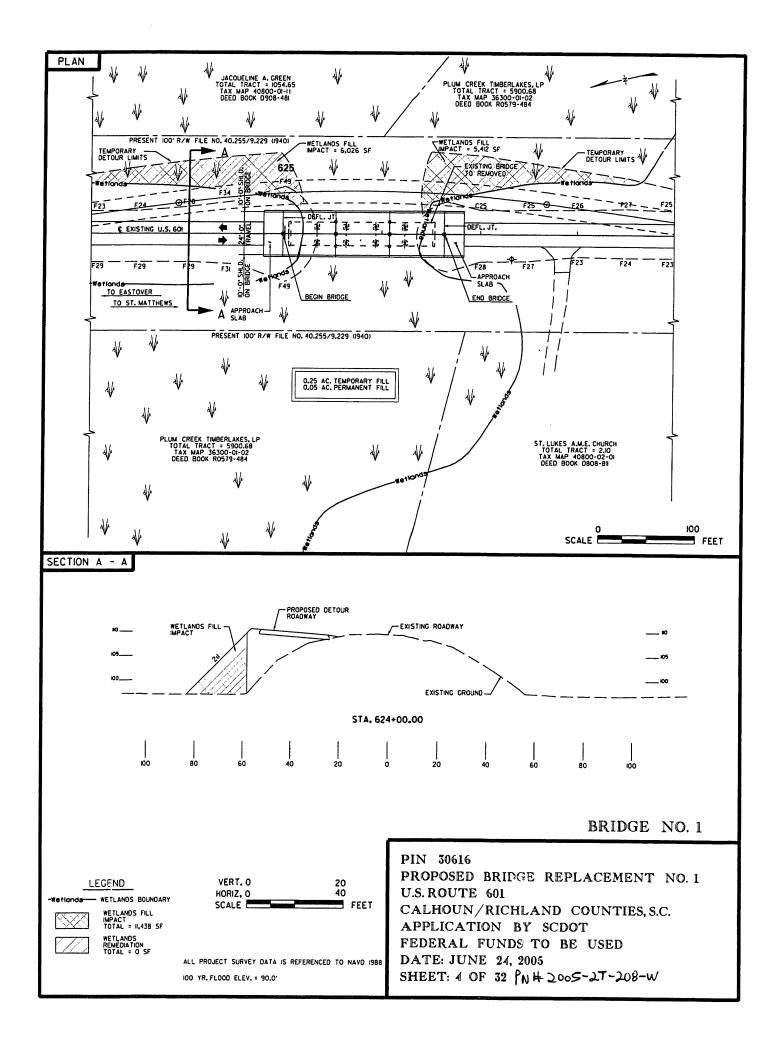
Steve Brumagin Project Manager Regulatory Division

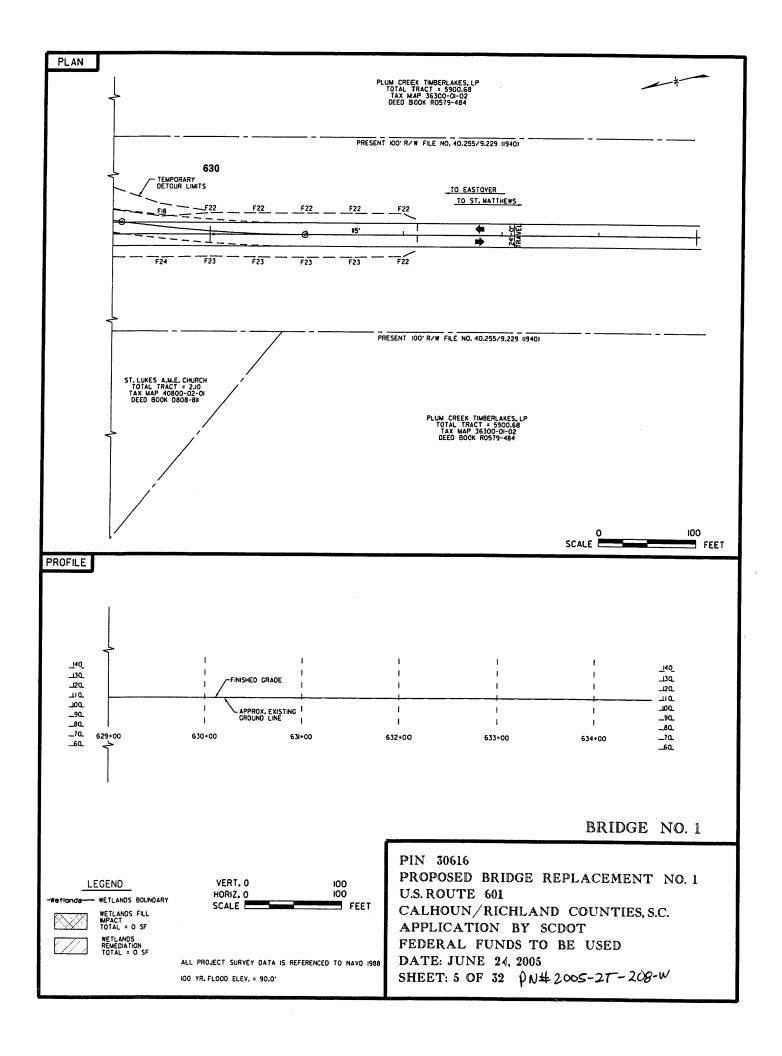
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

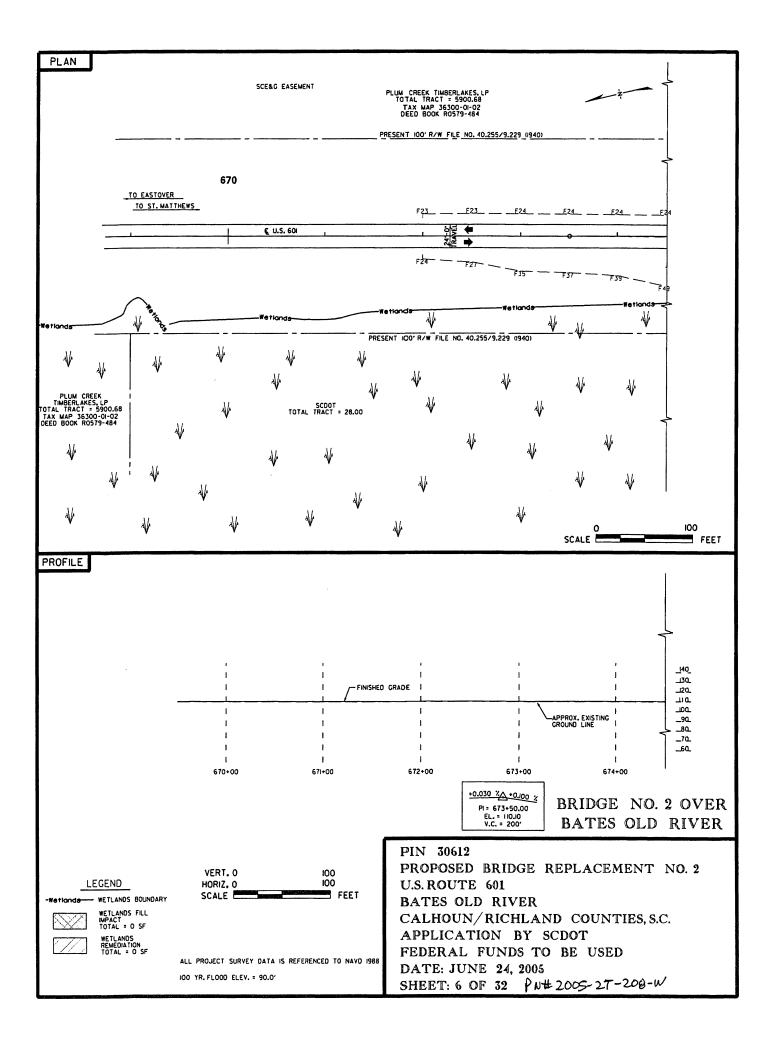


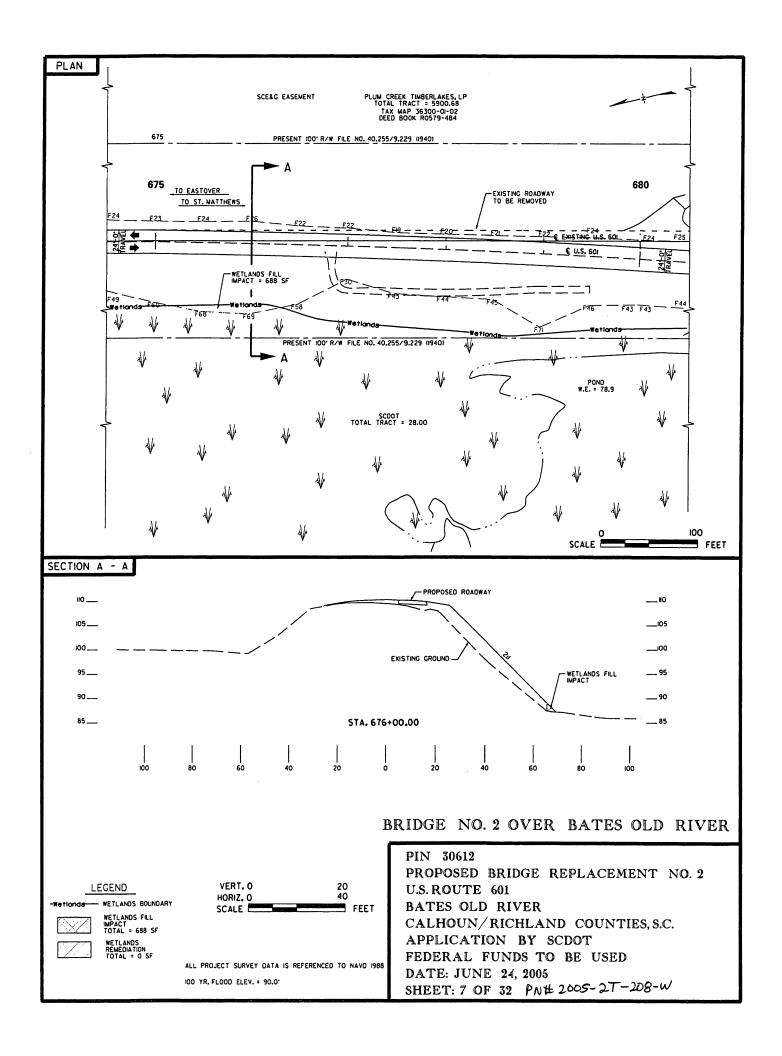


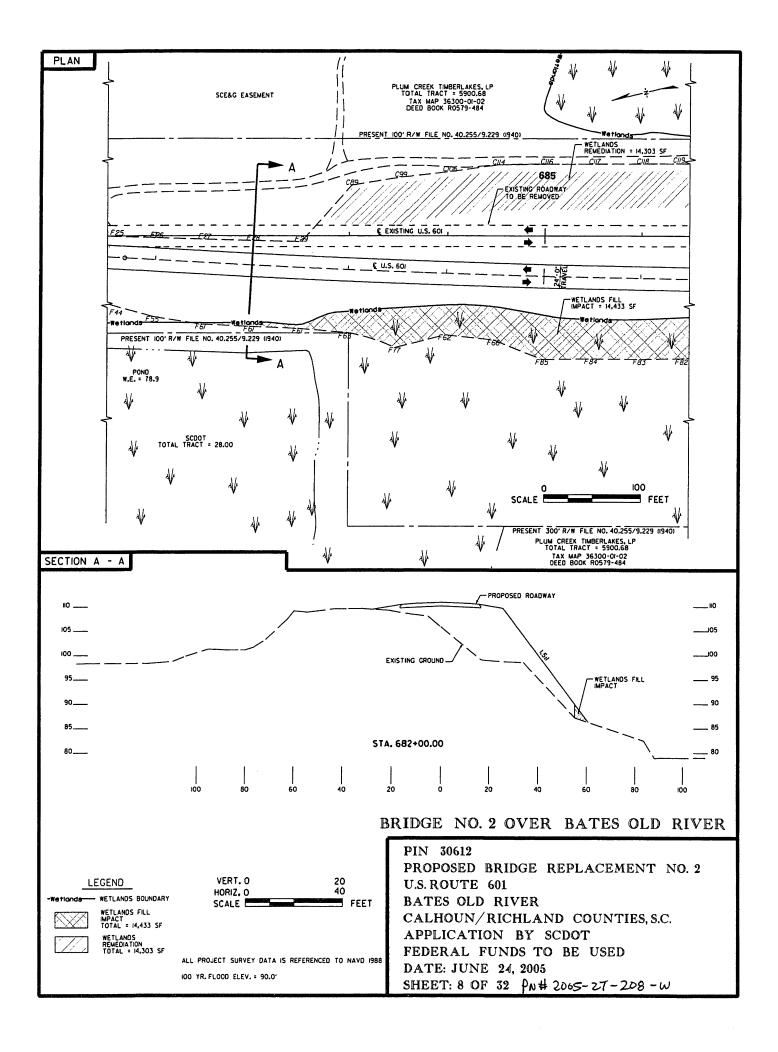


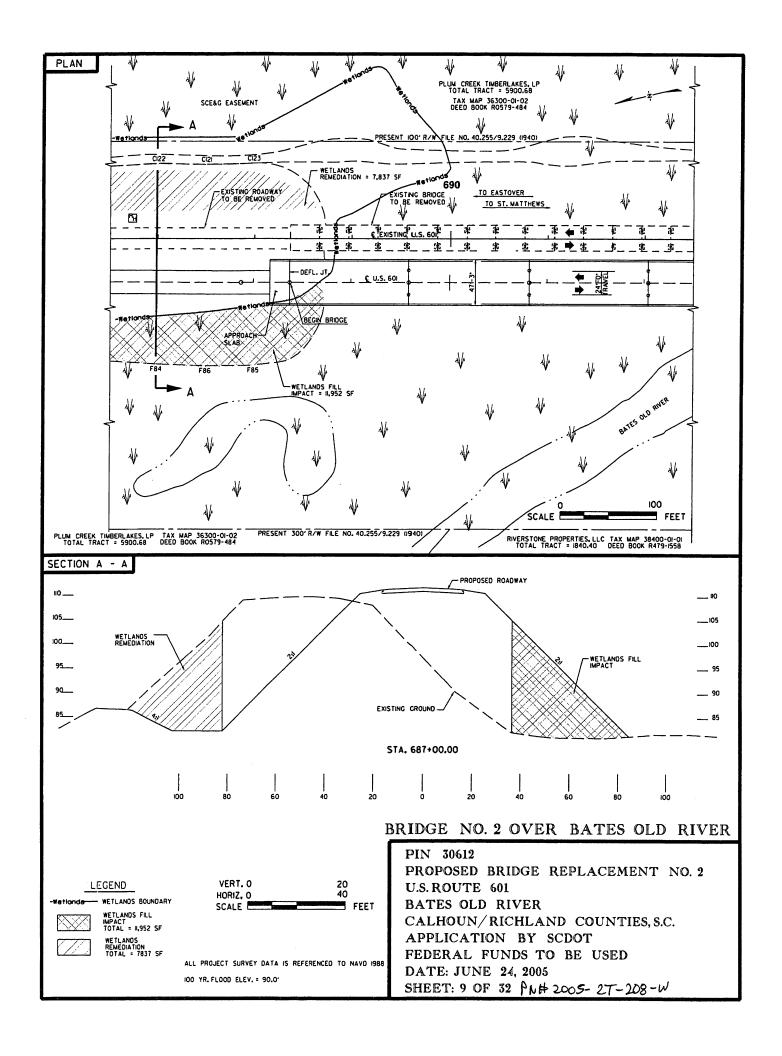


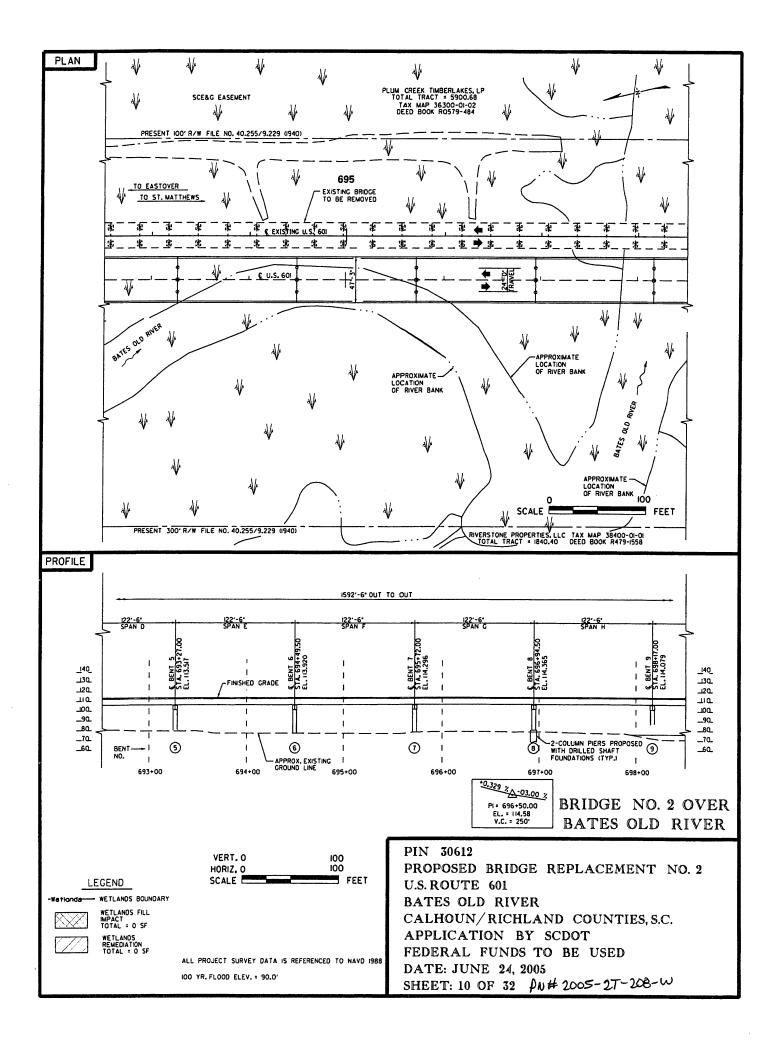


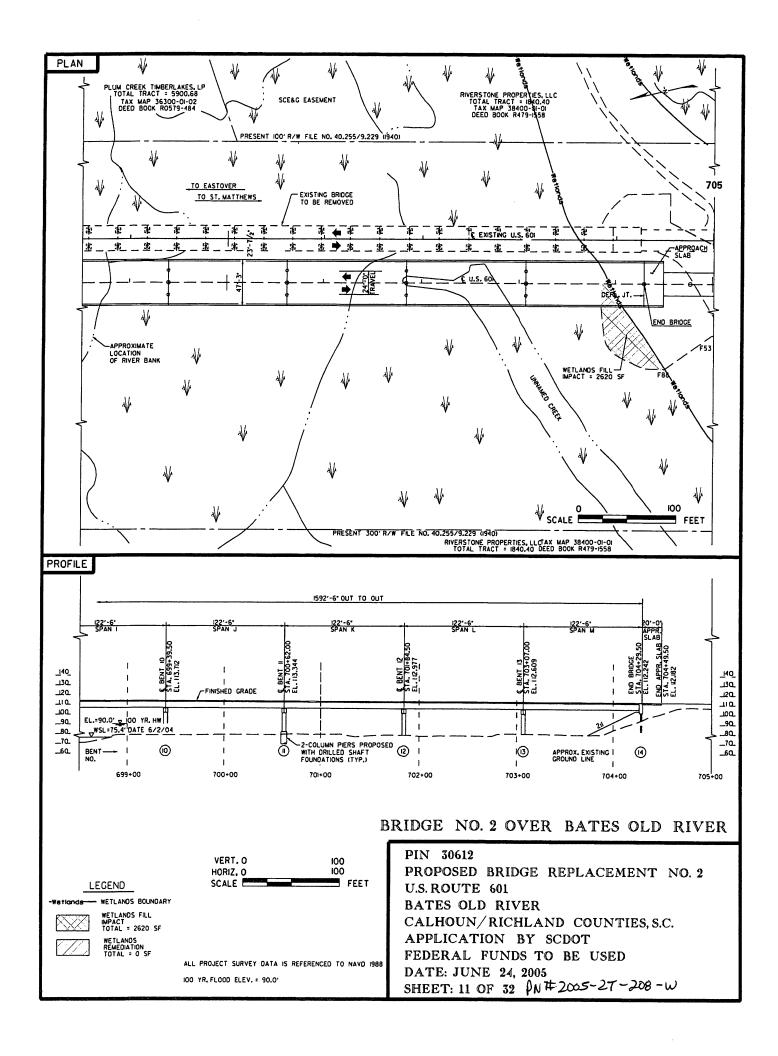


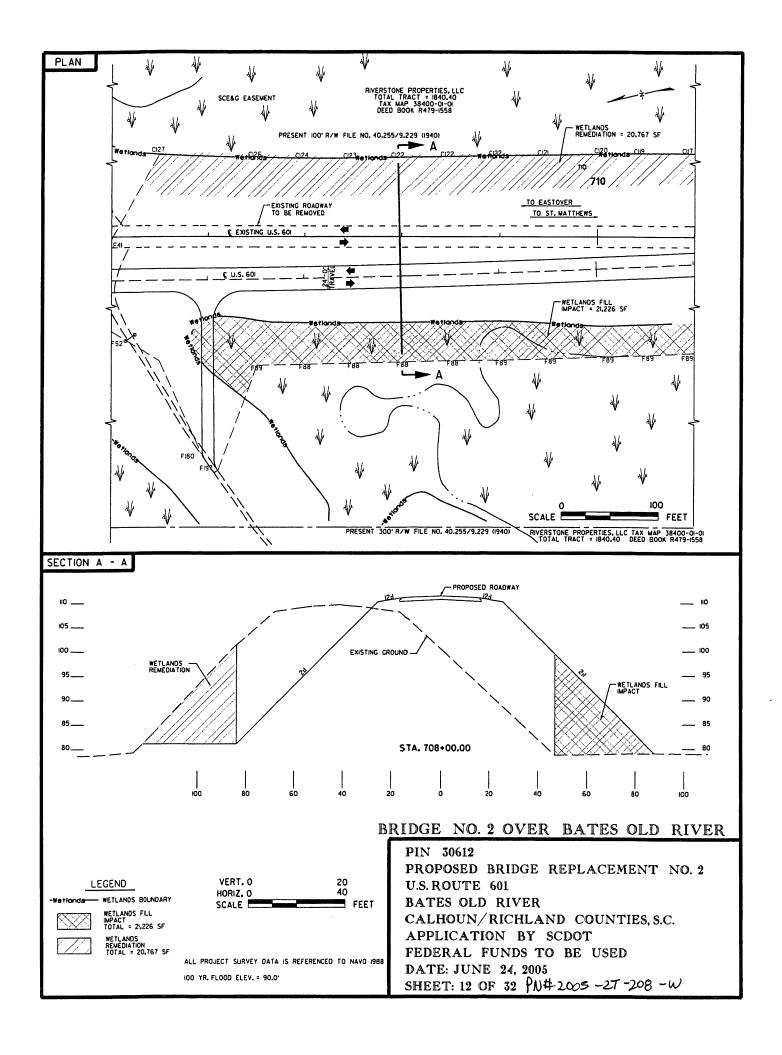


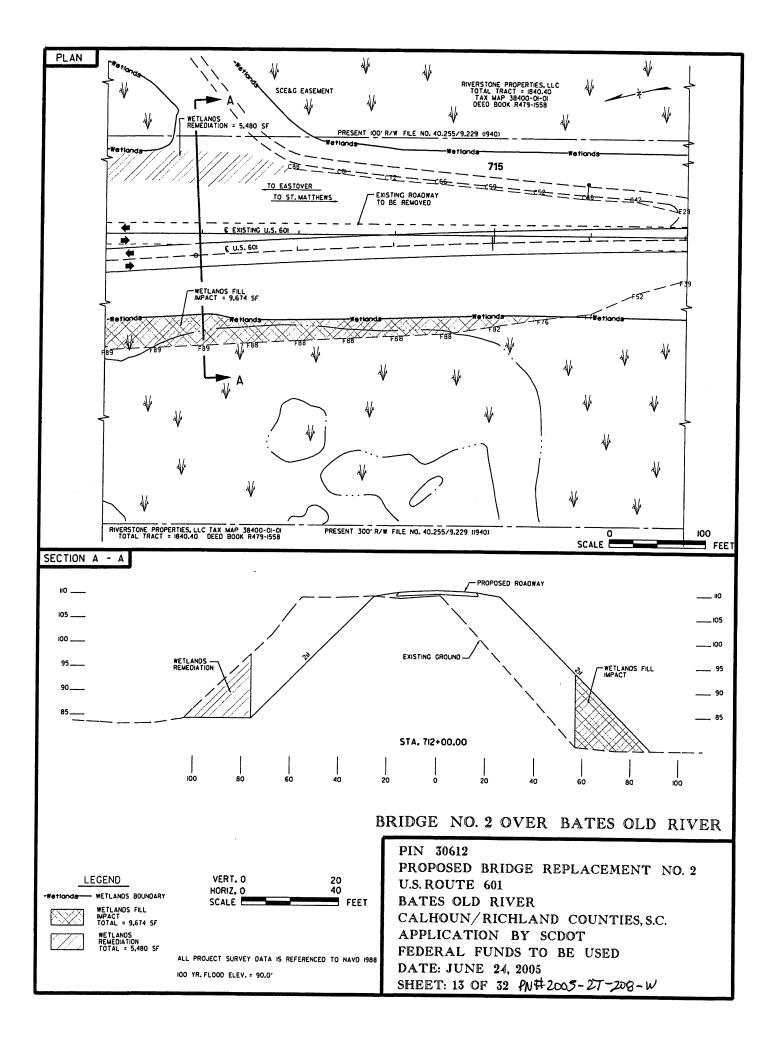


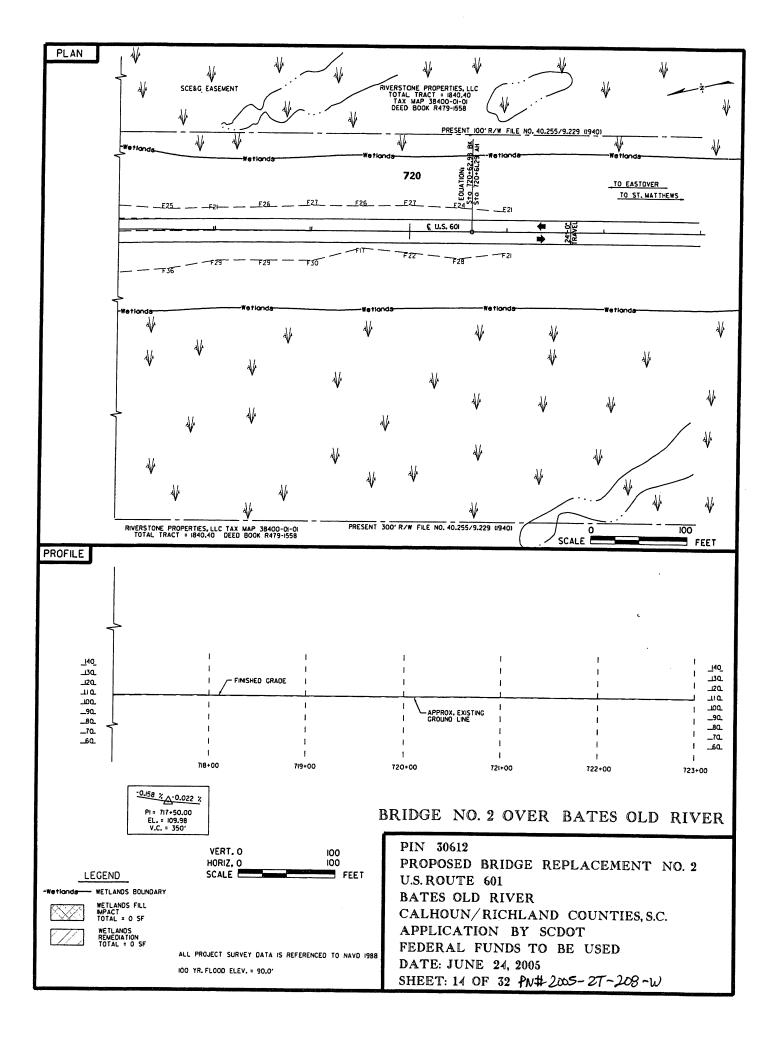


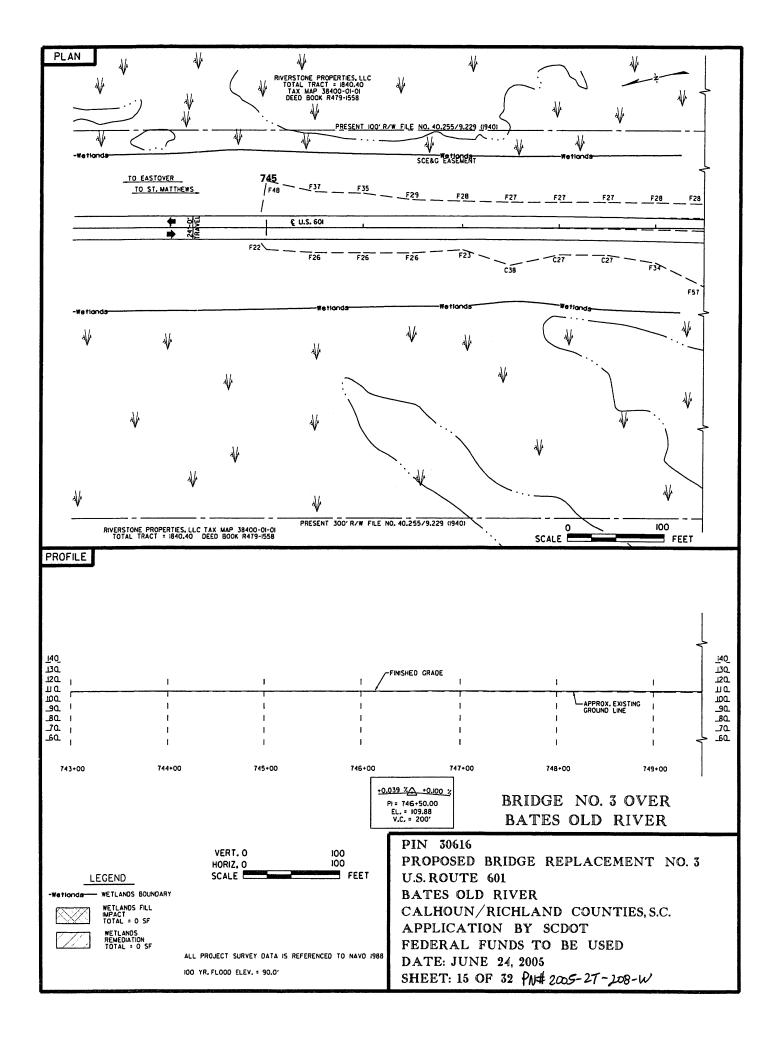


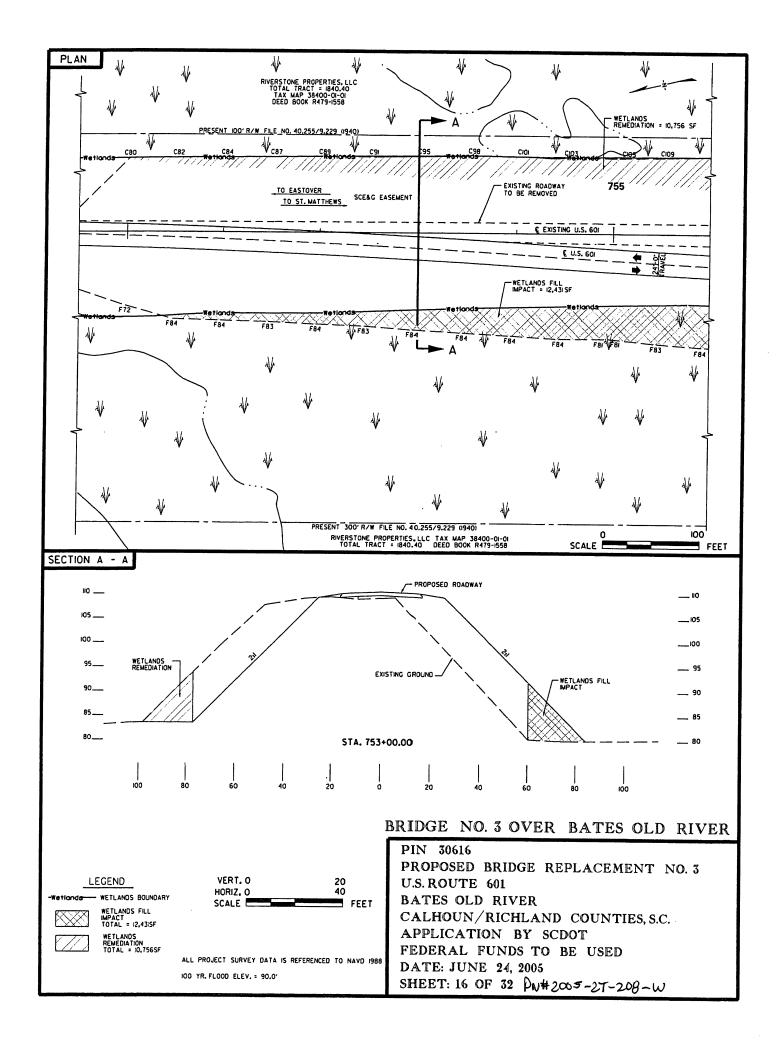


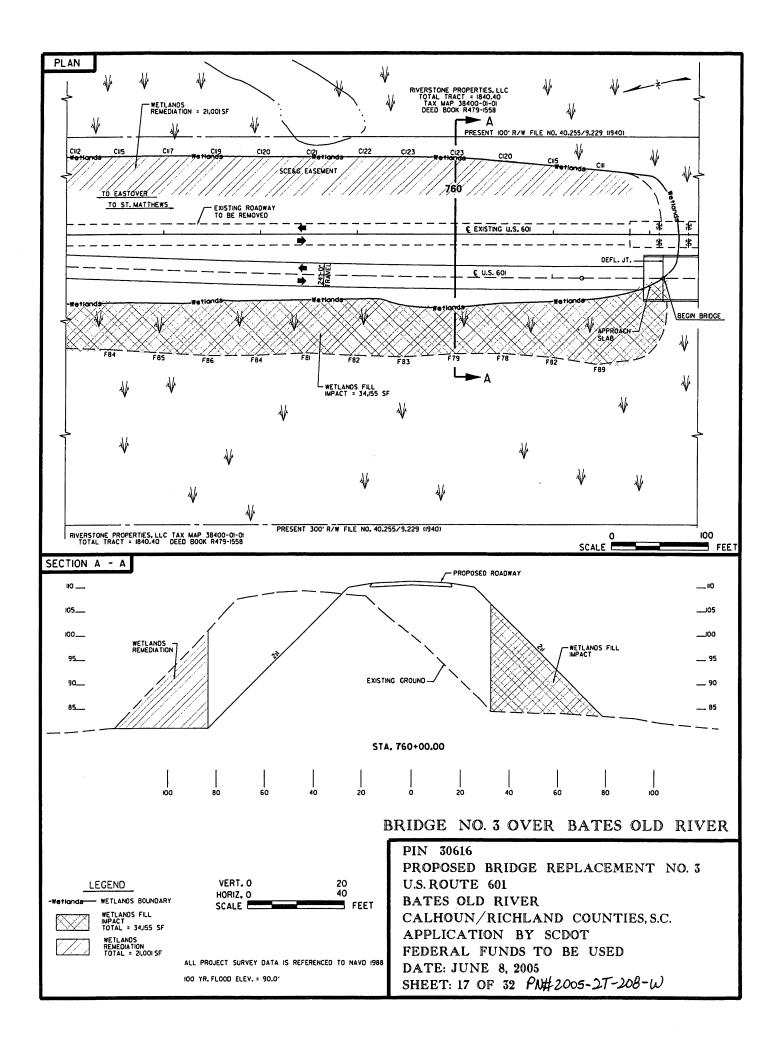


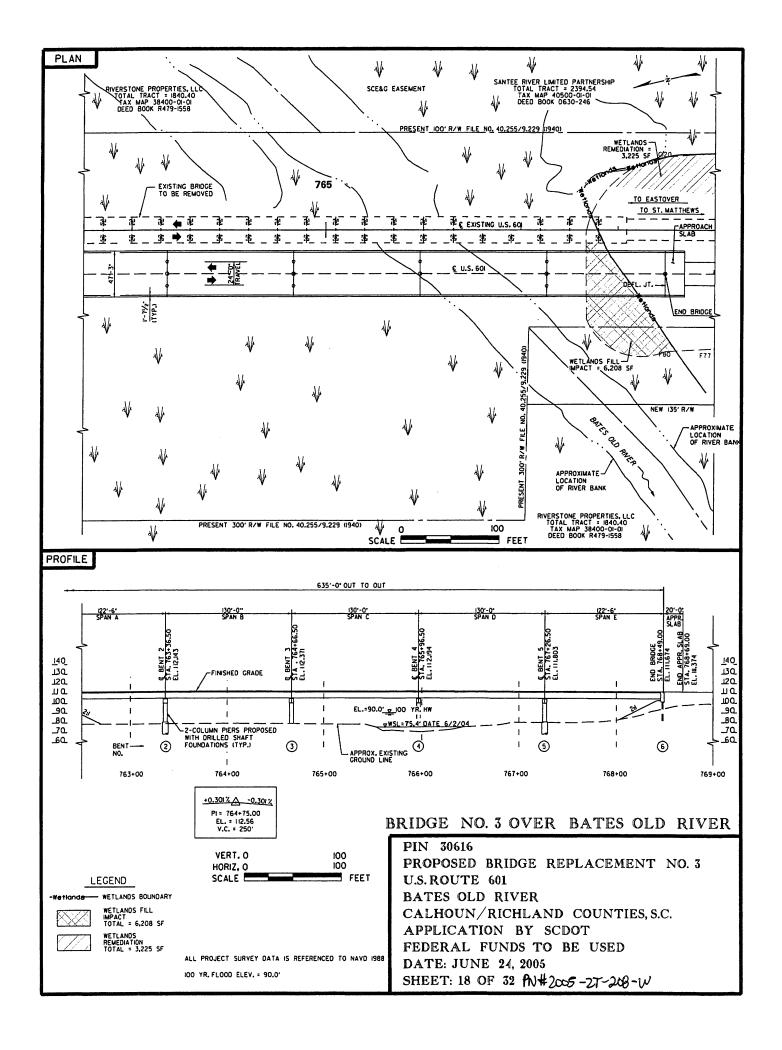


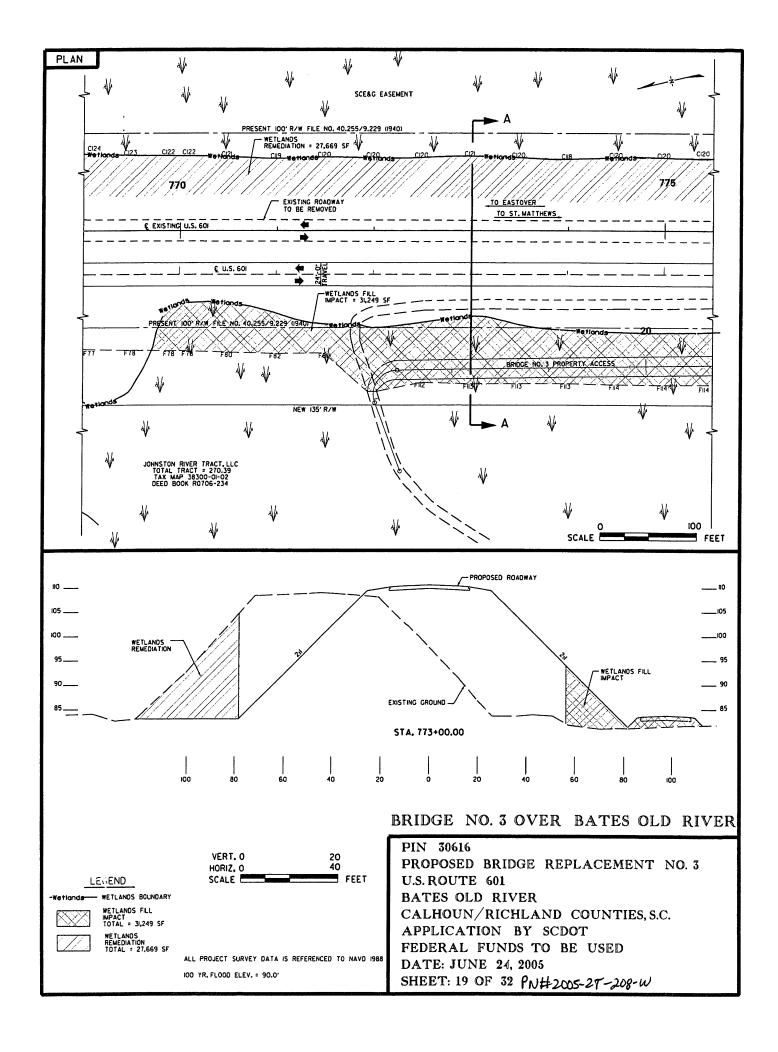


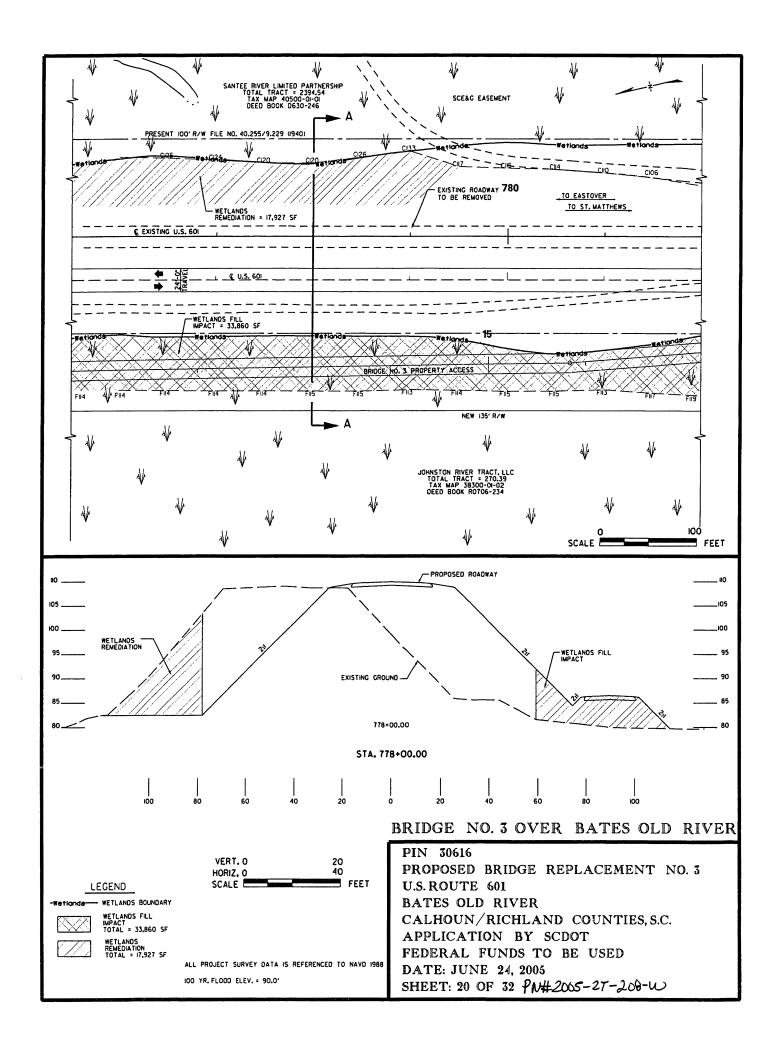


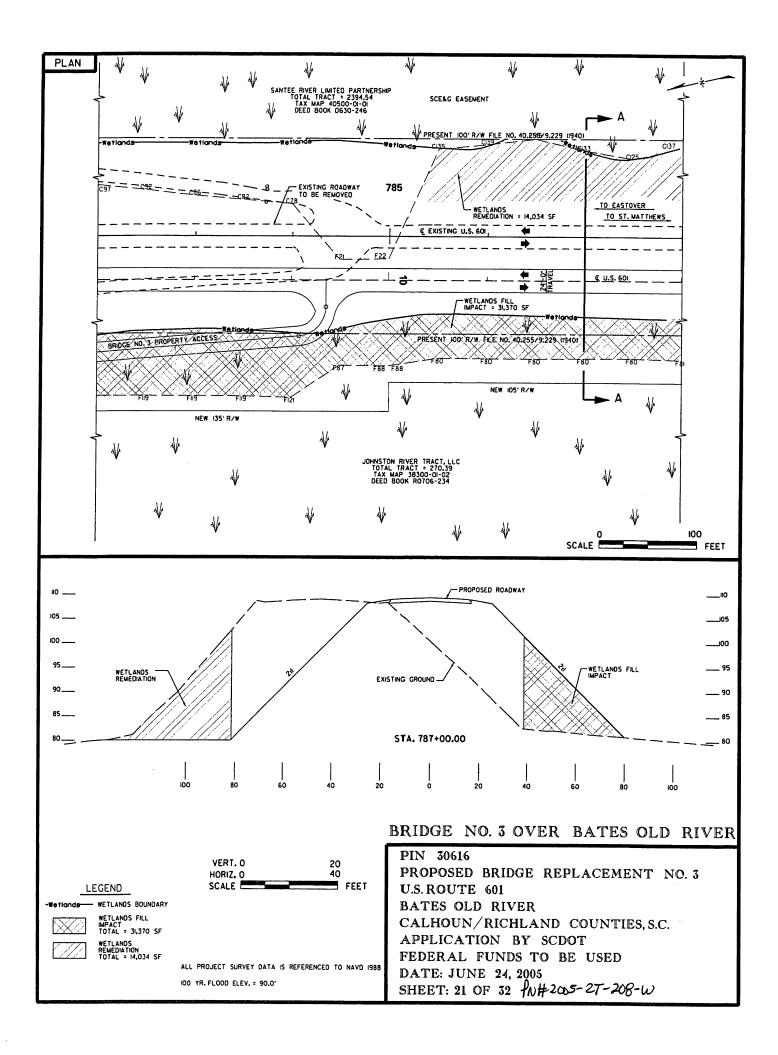


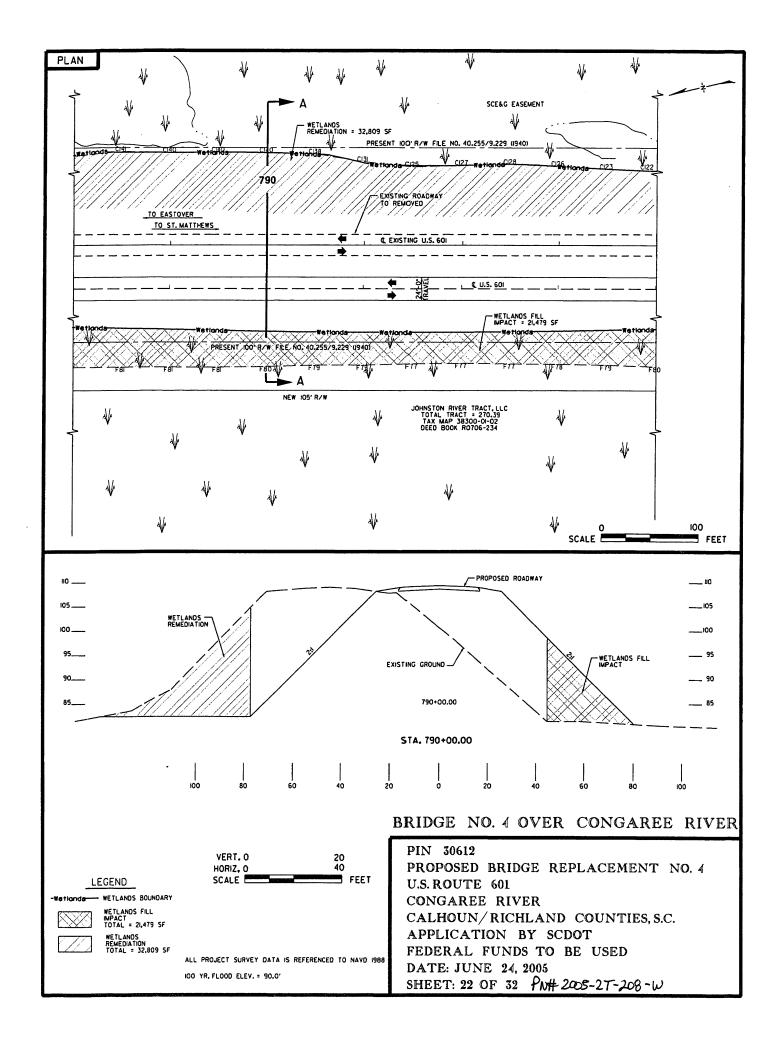


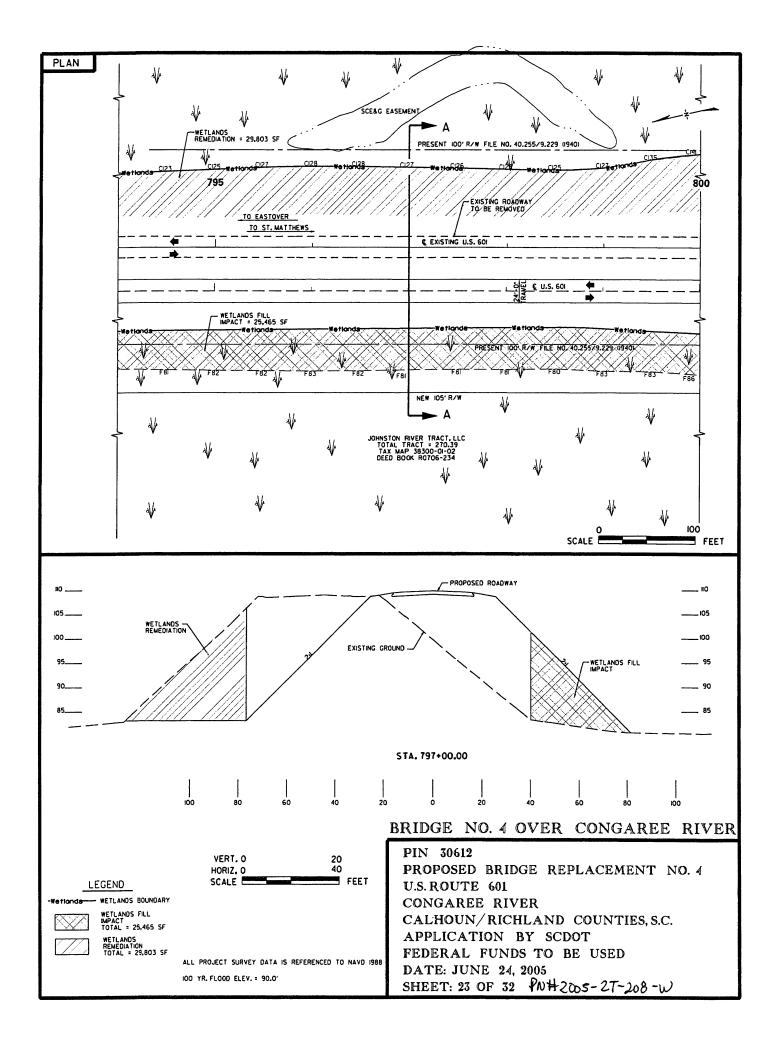


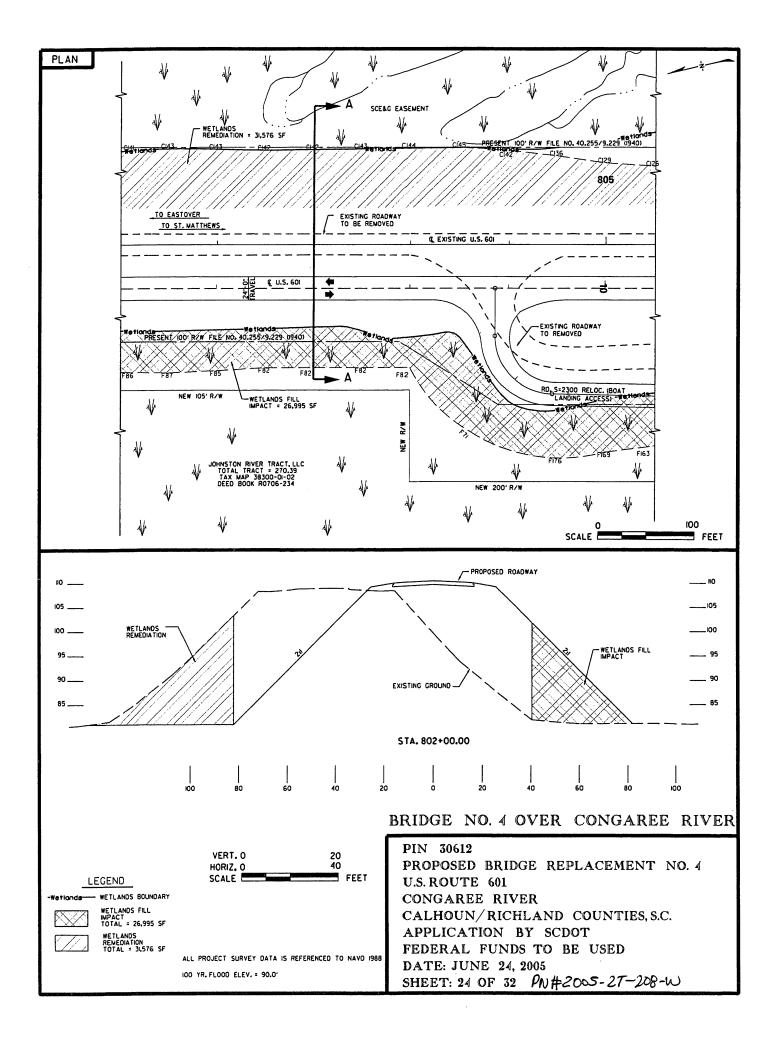


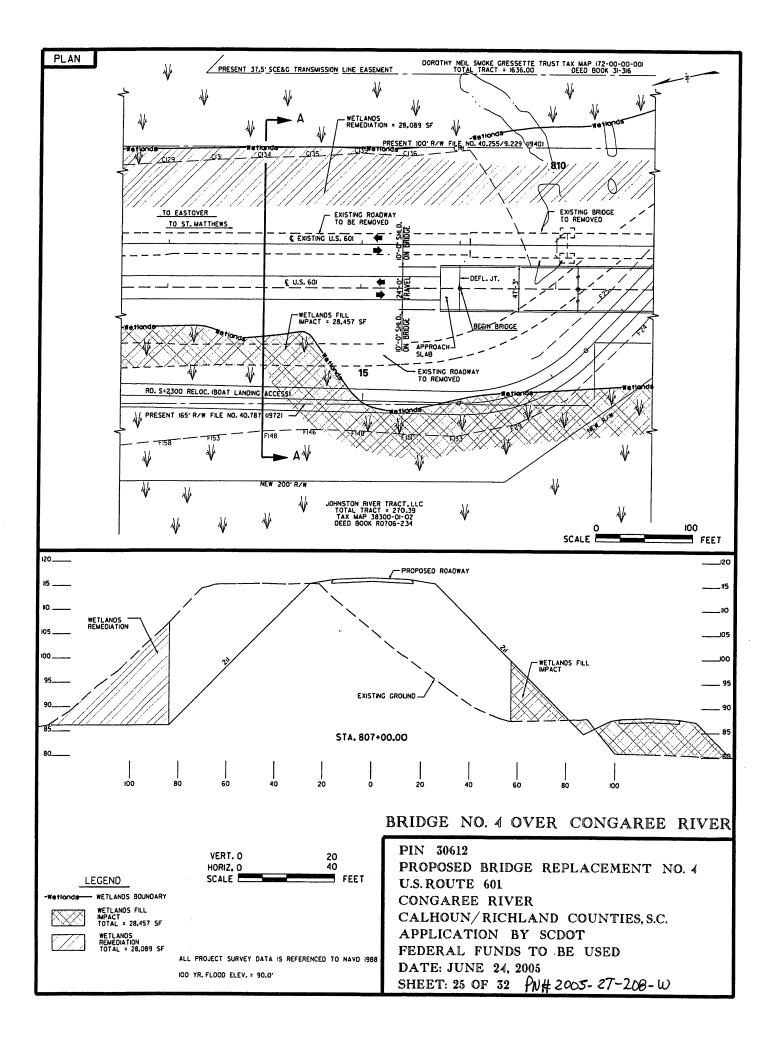


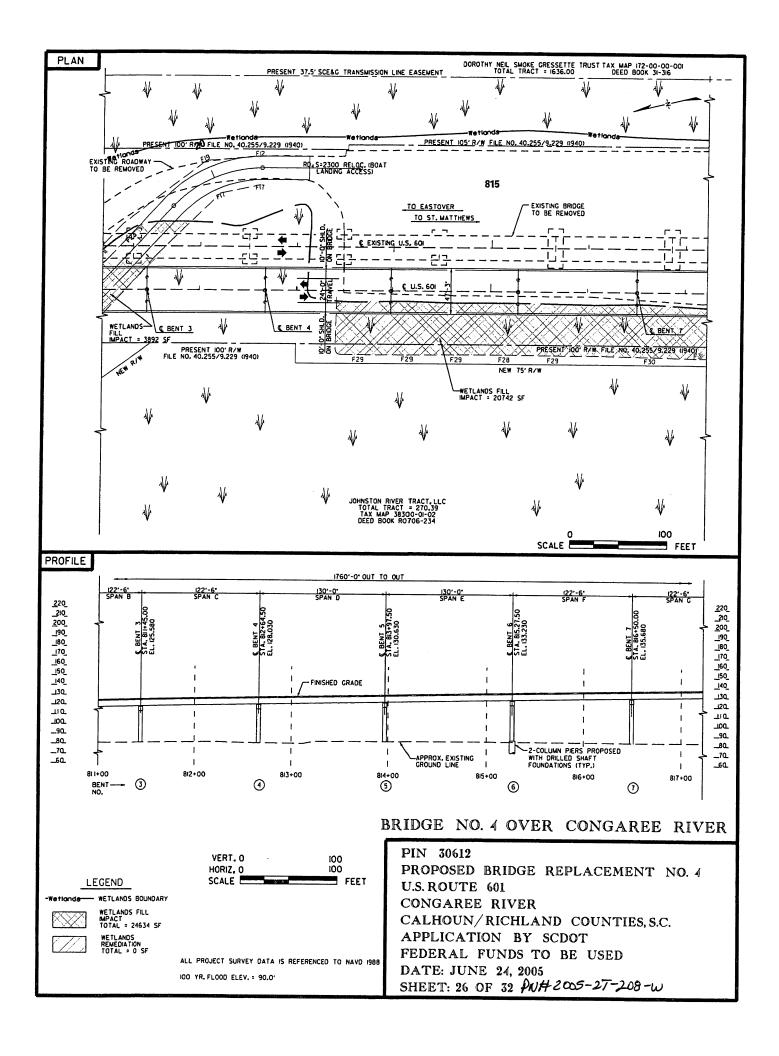


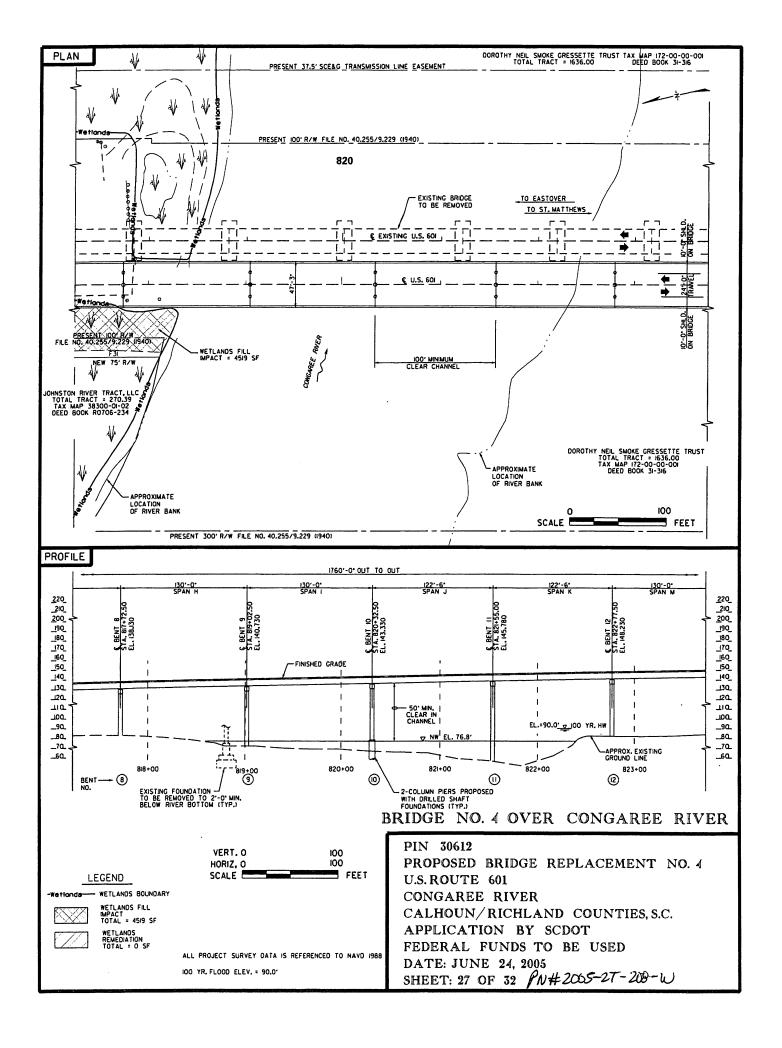


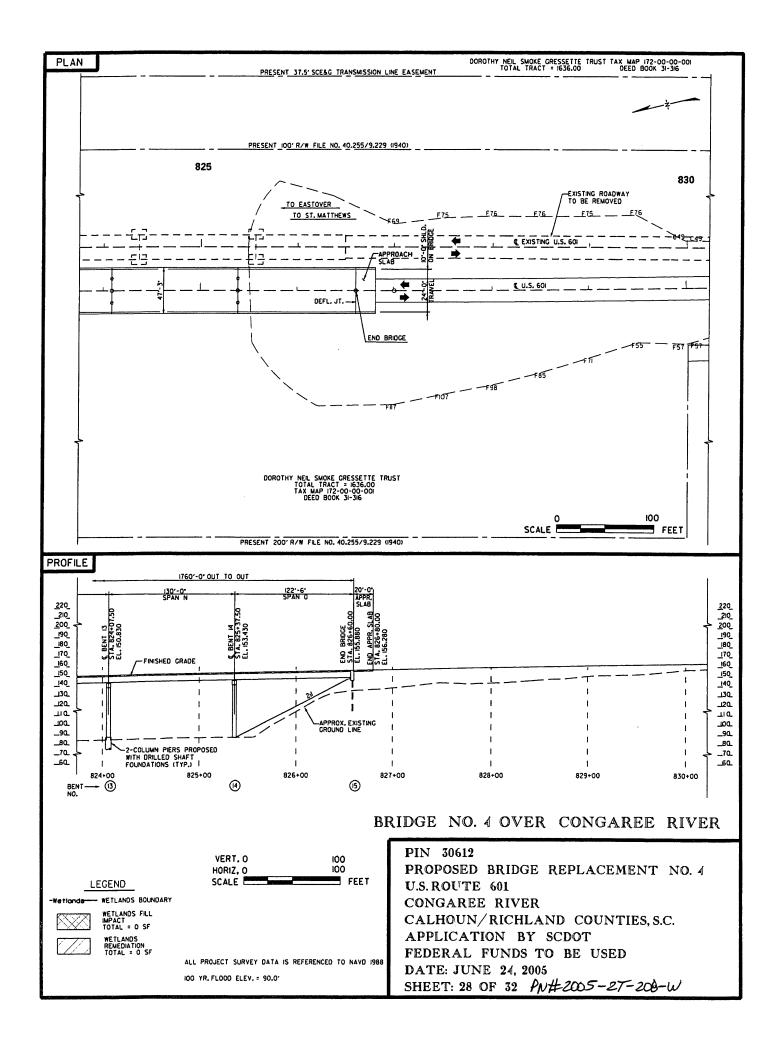


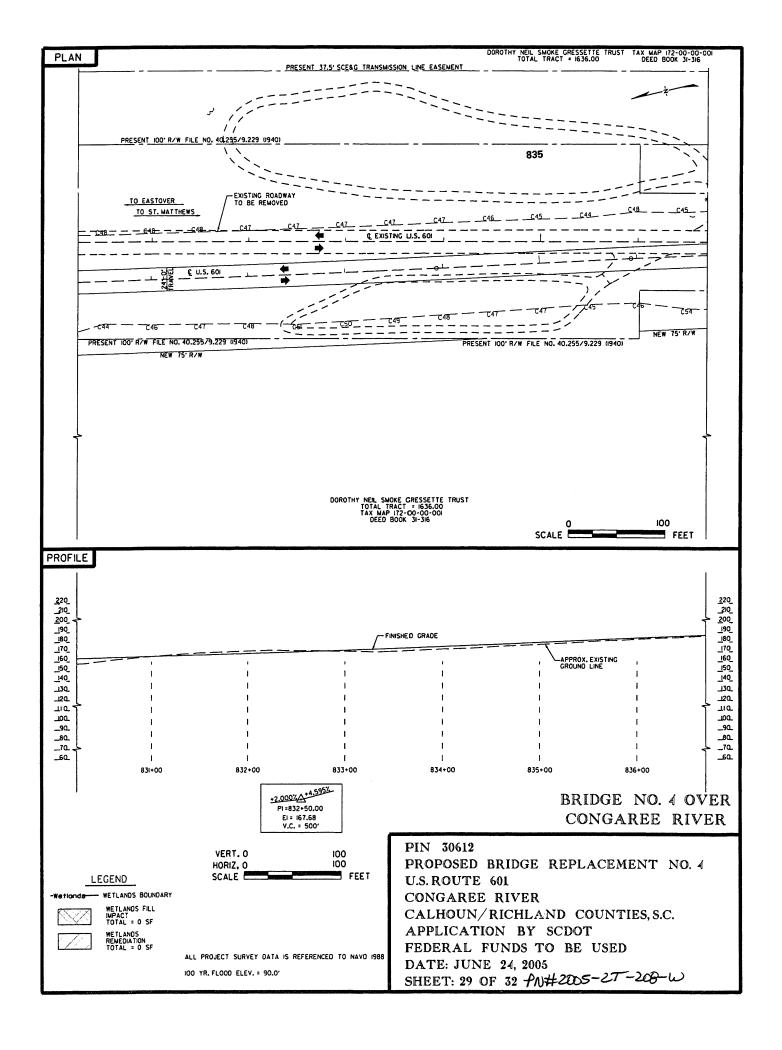


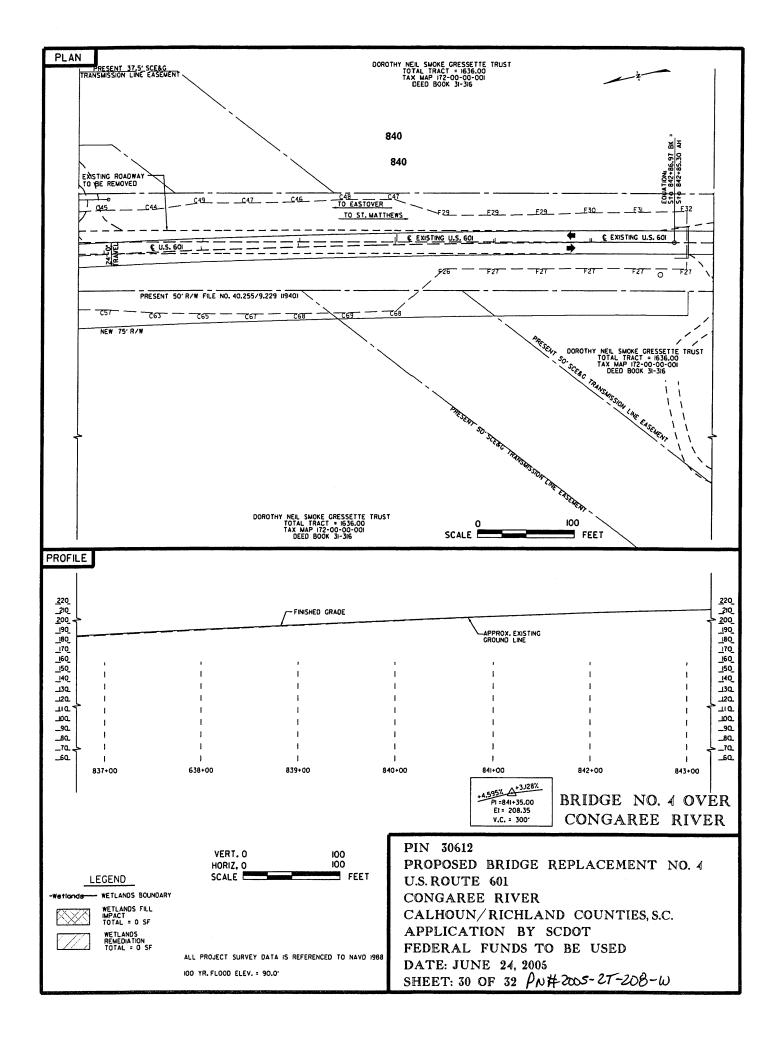


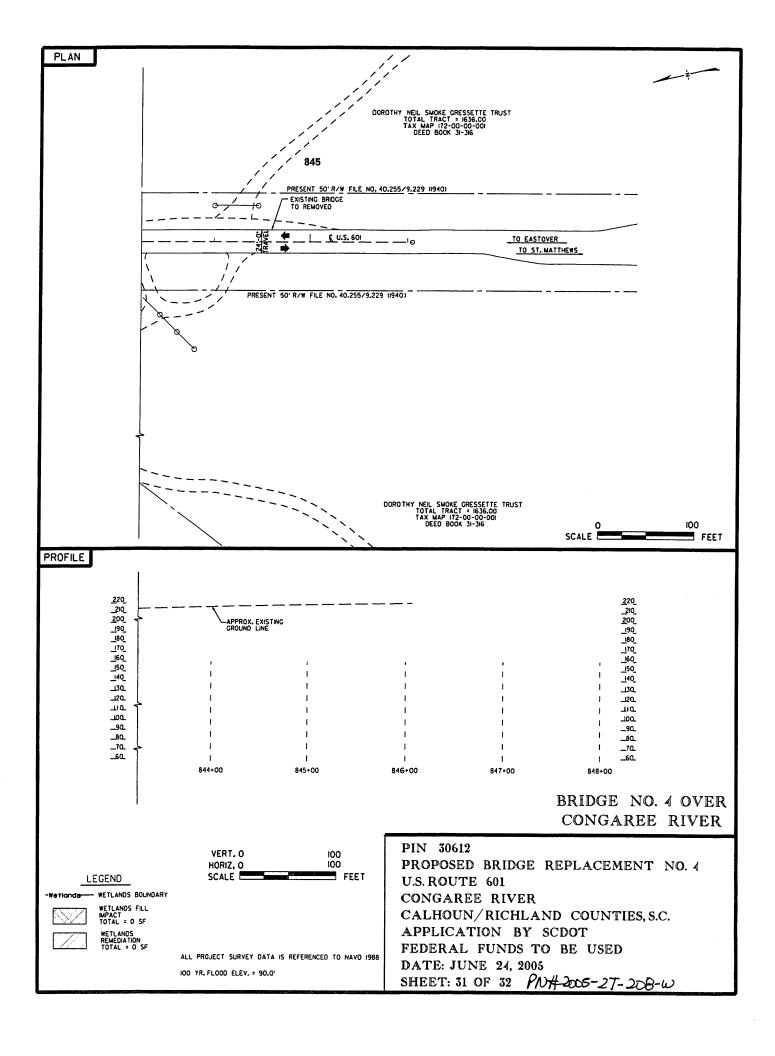


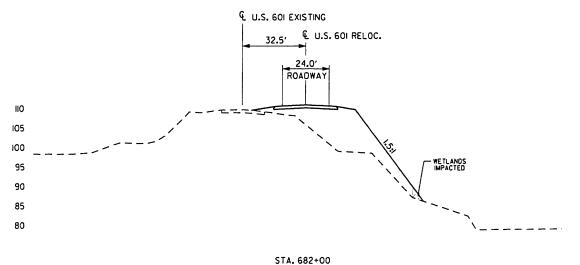






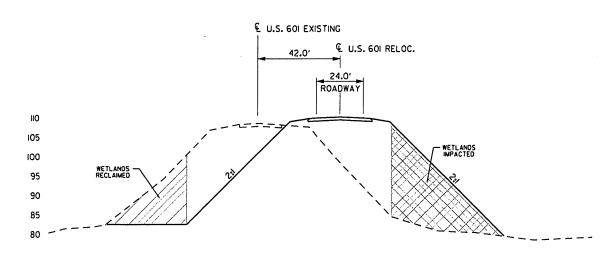






31A. 602TU

TYPICAL SECTION USED ON U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 680+00 - 683+00



STA. 758+00

TYPICAL SECTION USED ON

U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 620+80 - 628+50 U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 683+00 - 688+20 U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 705+90 - 715+80 U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 750+40 - 762+00

U.S. RTE. 601 RELOC. STA. 769+80 - 807+50

PIN 30616
PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS
U.S. ROUTE 601
CALHOUN/RICHLAND COUNTIES, S.C.
APPLICATION BY SCDOT
FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE USED
DATE JUNE 24, 2005
SHEET 32 OF 32 NH-2005-27-208-W